

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:  
creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location including performing an automated preflight check of the press ready file to identify errors in said press ready file;  
submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and  
performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.
2. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of verifying, at said print service provider location, that said press ready file will be produced at said print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said press ready file to ensure production substantially as designed.
3. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said identified errors are automatically corrected at said designer location.
4. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said errors comprise at least one of: missing font, missing image, incorrect image resolution, missing crop marks, incorrect scaling, incorrect rotation, and incorrect color space.
5. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said errors comprise at least one of: paper mismatch between press ready file and selected press at print service provider location, ink mismatch between press ready file and selected press at print service provider location, missing imposition instructions, missing imposition proofing file, missing imposition proofing approval, missing remote printing file and missing contract proof approval.

6. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said errors comprise at least one of: inappropriate finishing device attached to selected press at print service provider location, nonfunctional selected finishing device, selected finishing device incapable of performing required tasks, missing finishing instructions and missing finishing mock-up file.

7. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said errors comprise at least one of: inappropriate packaging device attached to selected press and finishing device at print service provider location, nonfunctional selected packaging device, selected packaging device incapable of performing required tasks and missing packaging instructions.

8. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said errors comprise at least one of: missing shipping instructions, missing list of recipient names and destinations and of final output and invalid automated courier selected.

9. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said automated preflight check of the press ready file includes generation of a report at the designer location of the identified errors in said press ready file.

10. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said automated preflight check of the press ready file includes generation of alarms discernable at the designer location corresponding to the identification of errors in said press ready file.

11. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote imposition setup of said press ready file to remotely arrange a plurality of design pages of said press ready file onto one or more print pages.

12. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired finishing options for said press ready file when printed at said print service provider location to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same.

13. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote packaging setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired packaging options for said press ready file when printed at said print service provider location and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same.

14. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1 wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote shipping setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired shipping options for said press ready file when printed at said print service provider location and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same.

15. A program product for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method steps:

- creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location including performing an automated preflight check of the press ready file to identify errors in said press ready file;

- submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

- performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.

16. A program product according to claim 15, wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of verifying, at said print service provider location, that said press ready file will be produced at said print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said press ready file to ensure production substantially as designed.

17. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said identified errors are automatically corrected at said designer location.

18. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said errors comprise at least one of: missing font, missing image, incorrect image resolution, missing crop marks, incorrect scaling, incorrect rotation, and incorrect color space.

19. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said errors comprise at least one of: paper mismatch between press ready file and selected press at print service provider location, ink mismatch between press ready file and selected press at print service provider location, missing imposition instructions, missing imposition proofing file, missing imposition proofing approval, missing remote printing file and missing contract proof approval.

20. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said errors comprise at least one of: inappropriate finishing device attached to selected press at print service provider location, nonfunctional selected finishing device, selected finishing device incapable of performing required tasks, missing finishing instructions and missing finishing mock-up file.

21. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said errors comprise at least one of: inappropriate packaging device attached to selected press and finishing device at print service provider location, nonfunctional selected packaging device, selected packaging device incapable of performing required tasks and missing packaging instructions.

22. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said errors comprise at least one of: missing shipping instructions, missing list of recipient names and destinations and of final output and invalid automated courier selected.

23. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said automated preflight check of the press ready file includes generation of a report at the designer location of the identified errors in said press ready file.

24. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said automated preflight check of the press ready file includes generation of alarms discernable at the designer location corresponding to the identification of errors in said press ready file.

25. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote imposition setup of said press ready file to remotely arrange a plurality of design pages of said press ready file onto one or more print pages.

26. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired finishing options for said press ready file when printed at said print service provider location to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same.

27. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote packaging setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired packaging options for said press ready file when printed at said print service provider location and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same.

28. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote shipping setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired shipping options for said press ready file when printed at said print service provider location and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same.

29. A system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said system comprising:

- means for creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location including performing an automated preflight check of the press ready file to identify errors in said press ready file;

- means for submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

- means for performing at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging and shipping using said press ready file.